

20 years ago, and has done a great job to grow the organization and reach more students.

I would like to thank Ms. Murphy and Ms. Orrel once more for helping south Georgians to advance their careers.

SANCTIONS ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge all of my colleagues who voted “yes” on continuous and strengthened sanctions on the Russian Federation. That was the correct vote, and I commend the leadership of Ohio’s Senator SHERROD BROWN, the leading Democrat in the other body on the Banking Committee who fought for this package.

The bill also holds Iran, North Korea, as well as Russia accountable. Specifically, Russia for interference in our Democratic Republic, but also for its ongoing human rights violations, its illegal invasion and occupation of Crimea, and continued military violence in eastern Ukraine with over 10,000 dead due to Russian aggression.

This bill will impose sanctions on people involved in human rights abuses, those who launch cyber attacks and those who supplied weapons to the Assad government in Syria. President Trump and his staff regularly question the intelligence that shows Russia interfered in our election.

Given the President’s priorities lately, it is imperative that Congress send a clear message and make it more difficult to undercut sanctions without congressional approval.

This package tells the world: Congress won’t stand by idly. But what a sad day we have reached when there is doubt whether sanctions against Putin’s Russia, liberty’s proven adversary, will be even signed by this President of the United States.

STOP FUNDING PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last Friday night, an Israeli family sat down for Shabbat dinner to celebrate the birth of a new grandchild, but a 19-year-old Palestinian terrorist put an end to this joyous occasion.

The terrorist brutally attacked the Salomon family with a large knife. Pictures of the family’s home show a white floor stained red with the blood of the innocents.

A father and two of his children were murdered that night. Upon learning of the tragic event, Palestinians in Gaza took to the streets to sing, dance, and celebrate. No Palestinian leader has even condemned this grizzly attack.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, this is our U.S. tax dollars at work. The millions the United States sends to the Palestinians are funneled to terrorists and their families through the so-called martyrs fund. The leaders we prop up glorify terrorists and incite violence.

The American people refuse to continue this insanity. We refuse to continue enabling terror against the Israeli people.

And that is just the way it is.

INVEST BORDER WALL FUNDS IN OTHER PROVEN METHODS TO KEEP US SAFE

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday we are voting on a crucial funding program for armed services. Yet somehow it also includes \$1.6 billion to begin funding the construction of an unnecessary border wall. Without discussion, the funding for the border wall was added.

This wall won’t make us safer, and it won’t stop drug smugglers, and it will not keep out the bad hombres.

If we are serious about protecting our borders, then let’s invest the \$1.6 billion in programs that have a proven record of success. Let’s invest in drug detection canine teams. Let’s rebuild our Coast Guard. And let’s strengthen our partnership with Canadian and Mexican law enforcement.

These are the proven methods that will keep America safe.

PUERTO RICO’S TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, Puerto Rico’s territorial constitution is 65 years old today. An act of Congress authorized the island’s people to pass a charter of the local government.

It did not, however, eliminate Federal authority to govern Puerto Rico in local matters. The island’s constitution names the territorial government a “freely associated State” in Spanish, but we are not a freely associated State because we are not a sovereign nation.

Under the U.S. Constitution, Puerto Rico remains subject to a territorial clause until it becomes a State. Proof of that power is PROMESA, which installed Federal appointees to make final decisions on Puerto Rico’s fiscal matters.

The Americans I represent want to exercise self-government in local matters once again; but, more importantly, want to fully possess that power as the States do.

SECURE FIREARM STORAGE

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, communities throughout our country are suffering from an epidemic of gun violence.

In far too many cases, stolen guns represent a growing source of the weapons used in these crimes. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, last year alone, nearly 18,000 firearms were reported stolen or lost just from Federal firearm licensees, or FFLs. That is Federally licensed dealers, manufacturers, and importers.

Today I introduced the SECURE Firearms Storage Act to help address the stolen-gun problem by requiring all FFLs to securely store their inventory when not open for business.

Additionally, this bill would require the Attorney General to review and put forth further commonsense security measures to reduce the risk of theft, and require new applicants to detail their security plans before a new license is issued.

There are simply too many innocent lives being destroyed by these stolen guns. I invite my colleagues to join me on this bill to make commonsense improvements for gun safety.

RURAL AMERICA’S CONTRIBUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my friends, my family, my neighbors, and my fellow Americans in rural communities all across this land. I am proud to represent 29 counties in rural west Texas. I am grateful that I grew up in a small town—the town of Plainview, Texas, a little farming community.

We are the sum of many things and many contributions and influences, and I am thankful for the influences of that town. I am grateful to my coaches and my teachers. I was inspired by Ms. Becky Taylor, my first government teacher at Plainview High School. I have countless people to thank, and as I walk the Halls here, and as I stand on the floor of the House and cast my vote for the people I represent, I think about all of those people who have made an investment.

You see, in rural America, they take responsibility for their community.